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(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and

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S-104 35 Stockholm SUÈDE	AUG	0 3	20	01

Administrative Instructions, Section 422)	SUÈDE AUG U 3 ZW					
Date of mailing (day/month/year) 14 June 2001 (14.06.01)	TECH CENTER 160					
14 June 2001 (14:06:01)						
Applicant's or agent's file reference 192966301	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION					
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)					
PCT/SE99/02306 .	09 December 1999 (09.12.99)					
The following indications appeared on record concerning: X the applicant						
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004090487

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18 April 2001 (18.04.01)	:			
Applicant's or agent's file reference 192966301		IMPORTANT NOTII	FICATION	
International application No.	1	nal filing date (day/month/ye	·	
PCT/SE99/02306	09 D	ecember 1999 (09.12.9	9) 	
The following indications appeared on record concerning: The applicant the inventor	the agen		n representative	
Name and Address SBL VACCIN AB		State of Nationality SE	State of Residence SE	
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International application No. PCT/SE99/02306	Applicant's or agent's file reference 192966301			
International filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)			
09 December 1999 (09.12.99)	18 December 1998 (18.12.98)			
Applicant				
CARLIN, Nils et al	and the second s			
1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made: X in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on: 11 July 2000 (11.07.00) in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on: 2. The election X was was not was not				
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PCT

(21) International Application Number:

(30) Priority Data:

9804415-9





INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7:
A61K 39/108

(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/37106

(43) International Publication Date: 29 June 2000 (29.06.00)

SE

PCT/SE99/02306

(22) International Filing Date: 9 December 1999 (09.12.99)

18 December 1998 (18.12.98)

(22) International Fining Date. 9 December 1999 (09.12.99)

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(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published

With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: ORAL VACCINE AGAINST DIARRHEA

(57) Abstract

An oral vaccine composition against enterotoxigenic $E.\ coli$ caused diarrhea in humans is disclosed. It comprises a defined amount of at least three different types of colonization factor antigens (CFAs), e.g. 100 to 300 μ g of each type, selected from the group consisting of CFA I, CFA II (CS1, CS2 and CS3) and CFA IV (CS4, CS5 and CS6), on killed $E.\ coli$ bacteria lacking the gene encoding the heat labile enterotoxin (LT⁻), together with a defined amount of the B-subunit of cholera toxin (CTB), e.g. 0.5–2.0 mg, and a vehicle, such as PBS, which vaccine composition is purified from possible heat stable enterotoxin (ST).

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Oral vaccine against diarrhea

The present invention relates to an oral vaccine against diarrhea. More precisely, it relates to an oral vaccine composition against enterotoxigenic *E.coli* caused diarrhea in humans.

Background

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Bacteria and viruses often express on or within their membrane, proteins which in a certain environment function as a support for the organism to associate in a specific way or adhere to a surface. Such a surface may be the inner wall of the gastrointestinal tract, the oesophagus or any other biological surface or membrane in a human or animal body, where an organism may find an optimal environment for growth. Microbial membrane proteins of this kind are often named colonization factor antigens (CFA) or fimbriae. In the literature, other words such as pili, hemagglutinins, filamentous or fibrillar proteins are used for the same kind of substances. For convenience, "CFA" will be used herein to cover all these kinds of membrane proteins which also may have an antigenic character. For most organisms the production of their CFAs is controlled by various factors in the environment, which in turn may activate regulatory genes in the plasmid DNA.

A number of bacteria which are of medical interest have been shown to produce CFAs associated with their membrane. Among these, the ones which are most important for humans, are organisms which colonize the human gastrointestinal tract and the respiratory airways. Examples of organisms which colonize the gastrointestinal tract are enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli, Vibrio cholerae, Helicobacter pylori, Campylobacter, Shigellae, Salmonellae and Yersinia.

Of particular medical interest is the enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (ETEC), since it is one of the major causes of travelers diarrhea and diarrhea among children in the developing countries and accounts for more than 1 billion diarrhea episodes and at least one million deaths per year, primarily among children.

Enterotoxigenic E. coli are characterized in that they produce heat labile enterotoxin (LT) and/or heat stable enterotoxin (ST).

In WO 92/14487 a method for production and use of an oral ETEC vaccine is disclosed. The ETEC bacteria with CFAs and their subcomponents (CS-antigens) are grown under specified conditions. The subsequently formalin killed bacteria may then be used as an oral vaccine against the ETEC bacteria. The CFA and CS antigens will thus function as antigens in the immunological processing that will take place in the intestine.

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There were problems with the scaling up of the production of ETEC bacteria having CFAs, and a solution to the problems were disclosed in the International Patent Application WO 95/33825.

Formulations of ETEC vaccines containing the B-subunit of cholera toxin, which is antigenically similar to the heat labile enterotoxin of ETEC, and colonization factor antigens of ETEC, were shown to stimulate relevant mucosal immune responses in Swedish volunteers. (Jertborn M., et al, Vaccine, 1997; 16:255-260).

For product safety and efficacy a vaccine composition must be non-infectious and contain defined amounts of active ingredients which are the same from batch to batch.

Description of the invention

The present invention provides a new vaccine composition which is based on LT-negative killed enterotoxigenic *E. coli* bacteria comprising defined amounts of at least three different types of colonization factor antigens, and the B-subunit of cholera toxin (CTB) which is antigenically similar to the heat labile enterotoxin of ETEC. Further, the vaccine composition is purified from possible heat stable enterotoxin (ST).

The LT- negative ETEC bacteria are either laboratory selected from naturally genetically modified strains or produced by recombinant techniques.

Possibly present heat stable enterotoxin, which is a comparatively small protein of 19 amino acid residues, is washed away during the down stream processing of the vaccine composition.

The elimination of the possibility of the bacteria to produce heat label enterotoxin and removal of the possibly present the heat stable enterotoxin adds to product safety.

The killing of the bacteria should be performed in such a way that the colonization factor antigens are substantially retained, e.g. by mild formalin inactivation.

Thus, the present invention provides an oral vaccine composition against enterotoxigenic *E.coli* caused diarrhea in humans, which comprises a defined amount of at least three different types of colonization factor antigens (CFAs) selected from the group consisting of CFA I, CFA II (CS 1, CS2 and CS3) and CFA IV (CS4, CS5 and CS6), on killed E. coli bacteria lacking the gene encoding the heat labile (LT) enterotoxin, together with a defined amount of the B-subunit of cholera toxin (CTB), and an vehicle, which vaccine composition is purified from possible heat stable enterotoxin (ST).

In an embodiment of the oral vaccine of the invention the defined amount of different types of CFAs is for each type of CFA at least $100 \mu g$, and the defined amount of CTB is at least 0.5 mg, and the vehicle is a physiologically acceptable buffer solution.

In a preferred embodiment the defined amount of different types of CFAs is for each type of CFA 100 to 300 μ g, and the defined amount of CTB is 0.5 to 2.0 mg.

In a most preferred embodiment of the invention the defined amount of different types of CFAs are 200 μ g of CFA/I, 200 μ g of CS1, 150 μ g of CS2, 200 μ g of CS4 and 150 μ g of CS5, and 1.0 mg of CTB, and the physiologically acceptable buffer solution is phosphate buffered saline solution.

A dose of the vaccine composition will contain approximately 10¹¹ bacteria.

The vaccine composition is administered to person as a drink in a glas of water containing carbonate buffer, such as sodium hydrogen carbonate.

10 Experiments

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Determination of the amounts of the different colonization factor antigens

E. coli fimbriae antigens are detected by using an inhibition ELISA substantially as described by Lopez-Vidal Y., et al in the Journal of Clinical Microbiology, vol 26, 1967-1972 (1988). Briefly, the bacterial sample to be analyzed is incubated together with a fixed amount of monoclonal antibody directed against the CFA. After incubation the mixture is transferred to a plate previously coated with CFA, where residual monoclonal antibody can bind to the CFA. Bound antibody is visualized by adding horseradish peroxidase conjugated anti-mouse immunoglobulin. As substrate, o-phenylenediaminedihydrochloride in a citrate buffer is used. The optical density is measured at 450 nm in a spectrophotometer connected to a computer equipped with a data reduction software. The optical density observed is inversely proportional to the concentration of antibody in the sample.

Formulation of the vaccine composition

Lot of formulated oral ETEC Vaccine derived from monovalent bulks of formalin killed CFA/I SBL strain 101, CS1 SBL strain 106, CS2 SBL strain 107, CS4 SBL strain 104, CS5 SBL strain 105 respectively and monovalent bulk of purified rCTB.

Composition

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Names of Ingredients	Unit	Function
Active substances: 1. Monovalent Bulk: E.coli, CFA/I SBL-101, Formalin Killed 2. Monovalent Bulk: E.coli, CS1 SBL-1 06, Formalin Killed 3. MonovalentBulk: E.coli, CS2 SBL-107, Formalin Killed 4. Monovalent Bulk: E.coli, CS4 SBL- 104, Formalin Killed 5. Monovalent Bulk: E.coli, CS5 SBL-105, Formalin Killed 6. Monovalent Bulk: rCTB, Purified	2.0 x 10 ² µg fimbriae 2.0 x 10 ² µg fimbriae 1.5 x 10 ² µg fimbriae 2.0 x 10 ² µg fimbriae 1.5 x 10 ² µg fimbriae 1.5 x 10 ² µg fimbriae 1.0 mg	To elicit immune response against ETEC bacteria
Vehicle: 7. PBS(WHO) Buffer, pH 7.2-7.4	q.s. ad 6.0 ml	Buffer

The strains SBL-104 and SBL-105 also produced CS 6, but the amount thereof was not established. The strain SBL-107 also produced CS3, but the amount thereof was not established.

Pilot study evaluating the efficacy and reactogenicity of the oral ETEC B-subunit-killed whole cell vaccine of the invention against travelers diarrhea

In a double blind, randomized, placebo controlled pilot study three groups of Austrian travelers were investigated. In addition to the ETEC vaccine an oral B-subunit whole cell cholera vaccine was also included, since it had previously been shown in both Bangladesh (Clemens J., et al, J Infect Dis, 1988, 158:372-377) and in Finnish travelers to Morocco (Peltola H., et al Lancet, 1991, 338:1285-89) to afford significant protection against *E.coli* LT-diarrhea.

A total of 250 volunteers, adults and children, who had signed up for a trip to tropical or subtropical destinations (44 different countries in Africa, Asia and Latin-America) with a duration of stay intended to last 7 to 23 days, were included. Twelve of these were withdrawn due to violation of protocol, so that the intent to treat population encompassed 238 persons and the per protocol population, which perfectly fulfilled all the requirements, comprised 187

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travelers. Two consecutive doses of vaccine or placebo were given, at an interval of 7-21 days, not less than 7 days and not more than 30 days before departure. Post vaccination symptoms and adverse events were reported after both doses. All volunteers enrolled in the study were equipped with a daily record diary to monitor episodes of travelers' diarrhea during their stay abroad and with transport media (Portagerm and Cary Blair tubes) for collection of stool samples in case of diarrhea. Travelers were instructed to hand over their travel diary, and transport media tubes immediately after return. Blood samples for testing immunogenicity were taken from a subset of 73 volunteers before and after the first and second dose of the vaccines or placebo. The post first dose, sample was collected immediately before intake of the second dose, and the post second dose blood sample was drawn after return.

The formulations given to the three randomized groups of travelers were: ETEC vaccine., containing 1 mg of recombinant B-subunit of cholera toxin plus 10¹¹ formalin killed ETEC bacteria of five ETEC strains expressing the most common colonization factor antigens (CFA's) such as CFA I, CFA II (CS I, CS2 and CS3) and CFA IV (CS4, CS5 and CS6); a B-subunit cholera whole cell vaccine (registered in Sweden since 1992), containing 1 mg recombinant subunit B cholera toxin and 10¹¹ killed whole cells (Inaba, Ogawa, classical and El Tor); placebo containing 10¹¹ killed *E.coli* K12. The formulations were suspended in 4 ml buffer and each dose of vaccine or placebo was given as a drink in 150 cc of a sodium hydrogen carbonate solution. Isolation and characterization of ETEC bacteria and the anti-CTB IgA ELISA were performed as described (Jertborn M., et al ibid).

250 volunteers received one dose of vaccine or placebo, of whom 246 also received the second dose. The study protocol was approved by the local. Ethics Committee before start of the study. Written informed consents of the volunteers were obtained before randomization.

Reactogenicity results are as follows: In total 43 volunteers (17%) had mild to moderate gastrointestinal or general symptoms after the first. dose; 13 (16%) in the placebo, 13 (16%) in the cholera vaccine group and 17 (20%) in the ETEC vaccine group. After the second dose 20 (8%) had symptoms; 6 (7%) in the placebo, 7 (9%) in the cholera vaccine group and 7 (8%) in the ETEC vaccine group. Statistically, there were no differences in the proportion of volunteers reporting symptoms between the study groups.

Evaluating the efficacy of the vaccines, a case of ETEC diarrhea was defined as having three or more liquid stools, and ETEC, but no other pathogens, detected in pretreatment stools. In the Per Protocol population the incidence of ETEC was 8%(5 cases) in

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the placebo group, 10%(6 cases) in the cholera vaccine group and 2% (1 case) in the ETEC vaccine group. The vaccine efficacy as regards ETEC vaccine versus placebo was 79% (p=0.119) and versus cholera vaccine 84% (p=0.0496). Comparison of ETEC diarrhea rates was done by one-sided Fisher's exact test.

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All ETEC isolates in the Per Protocol population expressed colonization factors included in the vaccine.

The cholera vaccine gave no detectable protection against ETEC as compared with the placebo group, but it is noteworthy that only two of the ETEC cases in the cholera vaccine group were caused by bacteria producing solely the heat-labile enterotoxin (LT) against which the cholera vaccine (through its B-subunit) can theoretically work.

Thus, due to the fact that there were almost exclusively LT-negative strains present in this group, the cholera vaccine is not supposed to have any effect.

Despite these results it must be kept in mind that the stool sample handling as described might be a source of error. When using transport media, there is a risk of losing sensitive pathogens, whereas less sensitive ones such as *E. coli* bacteria survive, resulting in false positive cases of ETEC diarrhea (see definition of ETEC diarrhea). Hence, the proportion of ETEC diarrhea might have been overestimated. However, it is unlikely that possible false positive cases are unevenly distributed over the study groups.

Concerning immunogenicity, a significant increase in antibodies against the B-subunit of choleratoxin (CTB) could be shown by means of anti-CTB IgA ELISA in the group receiving the ETEC vaccine (geometric mean titres pre- vs. post-vaccination: 7.8 vs. 58.7 after the first and 62.6 after the second dose; seroconversion after 2nd dose: 91%) and in the group receiving, the cholera vaccine (7.6 vs. 54.6 after the first and 60.1 after the second dose; seroconversion 100%). The placebo group did not show any significant increase in the anti-CTB response (7.9 vs. 8.3 after the first and 11.8 after the second dose; seroconversion 29%).

Thus - although the CTB-cholera WC vaccine induced a very good response against the B-subunit - a significant influence of this vaccine on ETEC diarrhea was not observed. This could predominantly be ascribed to the fact that a majority of the ETEC strains isolated from these voluateers were only producing ST (9 from 12) and hence could not be prevented by the cholera vaccine. Apparently, anti-CFA antibodies are highly important for protection against in particular diarrhea caused by ST-only ETEC.

The present results are the first to lend support in humans for the working hypothesis that oral ETEC vaccine induced anti-CFA/CS immunity can protect against diarrhea caused by ST-only producing ETEC.

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Claims

- 1. Oral vaccine composition against enterotoxigenic *E.coli* caused diarrhea in humans, which comprises a defined amount of at least three different types of colonization factor antigens (CFAs) selected from the group consisting of CFA I, CFA II (CS l, CS2 and CS3) and CFA IV (CS4, CS5 and CS6), on killed *E. coli* bacteria lacking the gene encoding the heat labile (LT) enterotoxin, together with a defined amount of the B-subunit of cholera toxin (CTB), and an vehicle, which vaccine composition is purified from possible heat stable enterotoxin (ST).
- 2. Oral vaccine according to claim 1, wherein the defined amount of different types of CFAs is for each type of CFA at least 100 µg, and the defined amount of CTB is at least 0.5 mg, and the vehicle is a physiologically acceptable buffer solution.
- 3. Oral vaccine according to claim 2, wherein the defined amount of different types of CFAs is for each type of CFA 100 to 300 μ g, and the defined amount of CTB is 0.5 to 2.0 mg.
- 4. Oral vaccine according to claim 3, wherein the defined amount of different types of CFAs are 200 μg of CFA/I, 200 μg of CS1, 150 μg of CS2, 200 μg of CS4 and 150 μg of CS5, and 1.0 mg of CTB, and the physiologically acceptable buffer solution is phosphate buffered saline solution.



International application No.

PCT/SE 99/02306

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER					
IPC7: A61K 39/108					
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both no B. FIELDS SEARCHED	ational classification and IPC				
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Category* Citation of document, with indication, where app	propriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
A WO 9214487 A1 (HOLMGREN, JAN), 3		1-4			
(03.09.92), page 15, line 11 Table 1	l - line 25,				
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22 March 2000					
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PCT/SE 99/02306

	atent document I in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO	9214487 A1	03/09/92	AT	170755 T	15/09/98
		• •	AU	663864 B	26/10/95
			AU	1330892 A	15/09/92
			BG	61683 B	31/03/98
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			FI	100391 B	00/00/00
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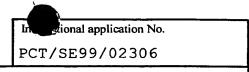
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(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

15

Applicant's or agent's file reference		C N :C				
192966301/BN	FOR FURTHER ACT		cation of Transmittal of International ry Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)			
International application No.	International filing date	(day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)			
PCT/SE99/02306	09.12.1999		18.12.1998			
International Patent Classification (IPC) o	r national classification ar	nd IPC7				
A 61 K 39/108						
Applicant						
SBL Vaccin AB et al	<u></u>					
This international preliminary exa Authority and is transmitted to the	mination report has been per applicant according to A	prepared by this Inte rticle 36.	ernational Preliminary Examining			
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	of 3 sheets	, including this cove	er sheet.			
	asis for this report and/or	sheets containing re	tion, claims and/or drawings which have octifications made before this Authority the PCT).			
These annexes consist of a total o	f sheets	-				
3. This report contains indications re	lating to the following iter	ms:				
I Basis of the report			•			
II Priority						
III Non-establishment of	f opinion with regard to no	ovelty, inventive step	and industrial applicability			
IV Lack of unity of inve	ntion		·			
	under Article 35(2) with retions supporting such state		entive step or industrial applicability;			
VI Certain documents ci	ted	•				
VII Certain defects in the	international application					
VIII Certain observations	on the international applic	ation				
Date of submission of the demand						
Date of submission of the demand		Date of completion	of this report			
11.07.2000		09.01.2000)			
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE		Authorized officer				
Patent- och registreringsverket Box 5055	Telex 17978					
S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88	PATOREG-S	Patrick And Telephone No. 08	dersson/EÖ			
1 445 mile 140. 00 007 72 00		refebrione 140. 09.	102 23 00			





I.	Bas	asis of the report				
1.	With	h regard to the elements of the international application:*				
	\boxtimes	the international application as originally filed				
		the description:				
		pages	, as originally filed			
		pages	, filed with the demand			
		pages, fil	ed with the letter of			
		the claims:				
		pages	, as originally filed			
		pages, as a	amended (together with any statement) under article 19			
		pages	, filed with the demand			
		pages, fil	ed with the letter of			
		the drawings:				
		pages	, as originally filed			
		pages	, filed with the demand			
	$\overline{}$	pages, fil	ed with the letter of			
	Ш	the sequence listing part of the description:				
		pages				
		pages	ed with the letter of, filed with the demand			
		pages, fil	ed with the fetter of			
	the in	h regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this se elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of internation	s item. ag language which is:			
	H	the language of publication of the international application (under R)	, ,,,			
		the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of internation or 55.3).	• • •			
3.	With a	h regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the iminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing	e international application, the international			
	\Box	contained in the international application in written form.	•			
	Ħ	filed together with the international application in computer readable form.				
	Ħ	furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.				
	H	furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.				
	H	The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing	ig does not go beyond the disclosure in the			
		international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable for been furnished.				
4.		The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:				
		the description, pages				
		the claims, Nos.				
		the drawings, sheet/fig				
5.	П	This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had	not been made, since they have been considered to go			
	_	J beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box				
*	in thi	placement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in re his report as "originally filed" and are annexed to this report since the 170.17).				
**		v replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to un	der item I and annexed to this report.			





YES

NO

٧.	citations and explanations supporting such statement				
1.	Statement				
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-4	YES	
		Claims		NO NO	
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-4	YES	
		Claims		NO	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Industrial applicability (IA)

The claimed invention relates to an oral vaccine on killed E. coli bacteria lacking the gene encoding the heat labile (LT) enterotoxin against enterogenic E. coli caused diarrhea. The vaccine comprises at least three different types of colonization factor antigens (CFA) selected from the group consisting of CFA I, CFAII(CS 1, CS2 and CS 3) and CFA IV (CS 4, CS5 and CS6), together with B-subunit of cholera toxin and is purified from heat stable enterotoxin(ST).

The search report discloses WO9214487 (D1).

Claims

Claims

D1 discloses an oral vaccine comprising CFAs and CS-antigens. D1 does not use killed LT-negative E. coli and is therefore regarded as the general state of the art of no particular relevance.

The invention according to claims 1-4 is novel, industrially applicable and considered to involve an inventive step.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Box V) (January 1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/SE 99/02306

A. CLAS	SIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER					
IPC7:	A61K 39/108 to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both n	ational classification and IPC				
B. FIELD	DS SEARCHED					
	ocumentation searched (classification system followed b	y classification symbols)				
IPC7:	A61K					
Documenta	tion searched other than minimum documentation to the	e extent that such documents are included in	n the fields searched			
SE,DK,	FI,NO classes as above					
Electronic d	lata base consulted during the international search (name	e of data base and, where practicable, search	n terms used)			
		,	•			
C. DOCL	MENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where app	propriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
A	WO 9214487 A1 (HOLMGREN, JAN), 3	3 Sept 1992	1-4			
	(03.09.92), page 15, line 11 Table 1	l - line 25,				
	1.20.2					
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	•	,				
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			<u></u>			
Furth	er documents are listed in the continuation of Box	See patent family annex				
-	categories of cited documents: ent defining the general state of the art which is not considered	"T" later document published after the inte date and not in conflict with the applic				
to be o	ocument but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance: the				
"L" docume	considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an investive					
ಬಂದಕ	special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be					
means	means combined with one or more other such documents, such combination					
the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family						
Date of the	e actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international s	earch report			
12 Mars	2 0 -04- 2000					
	nailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer				
Swedish Patent Office						
	, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM No. + 46 8 666 02 86	Patrick Andersson / MR Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00				



International application No.

30/06/94

25/08/93

15/08/94

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11/05/94

29/11/94

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